

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I report to the Senate that Senator DASCHLE and I have spoken to the President and have assured him that we have taken the necessary actions to swear in our Members and establish our quorum, and we are ready to do business. He said he was glad to hear that and he is ready to go to work.

HROR OF DAILY MEETING

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I send a resolution to the desk fixing the daily meeting of the Senate at 12 noon.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 3) fixing the daily meeting of the Senate at 12 noon.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 3) was agreed to.

The resolution is as follows:

S. RES. 3

Resolved, That the hour of daily meeting of the Senate be 12 o'clock meridian unless otherwise ordered.

PROVIDING FOR THE COUNTING OF THE ELECTORAL VOTES ON JANUARY 9, 1997

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I send a concurrent resolution to the desk providing for the counting of electoral votes on January 9 at 1 p.m.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 1) to provide for the counting on January 9, 1997, of the electoral votes for President and Vice President of the United States.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the concurrent resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Without objection, the concurrent resolution is agreed to.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 1) was agreed to, as follows:

S. CON. RES. 1

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That the two Houses of Congress shall meet in the Hall of the House of Representatives on Thursday, the 9th day of January 1997, at 1 o'clock post meridian, pursuant to the requirements of the Constitution and laws relating to the election of President and Vice President of the

United States, and the President of the Senate shall be their Presiding Officer; that two tellers shall be previously appointed by the President of the Senate on the part of the Senate and two by the Speaker on the part of the House of Representatives, to whom shall be handed, as they are opened by the President of the Senate, all the certificates and papers purporting to be certificates of the electoral votes, which certificates and papers shall be opened, presented, and acted upon in the alphabetical order of the States, beginning with the letter "A"; and said tellers, having then read the same in the presence and hearing of the two Houses, shall make a list of the votes as they shall appear from the said certificates; and the votes having been ascertained and counted in the manner and according to the rules by law provided, the result of the same shall be delivered to the President of the Senate, who shall thereupon announce the state of the vote, which announcement shall be deemed a sufficient declaration of the persons, if any, elected President and Vice President of the United States, and, together with a list of the votes, be entered on the Journals of the two Houses.

ELECTION OF THE HONORABLE STROM THURMOND AS PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE SENATE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, it is now with great pleasure and truly indeed an honor that I send a resolution to the desk electing Senator STROM THURMOND as the President pro tempore of the Senate.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 4) electing STROM THURMOND, a Senator from the State of South Carolina, to be President pro tempore of the Senate of the United States.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 4) was agreed to.

The resolution is as follows:

S. RES. 4

Resolved, That Strom Thurmond, a Senator from the State of South Carolina, be, and he is hereby, elected President of the Senate pro tempore, to hold office during the pleasure of the Senate, in accordance with rule I, paragraph 1, of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH TO SENATOR STROM THURMOND AS PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE SENATE FOR THE 105TH CONGRESS

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Senator from South Carolina, to be escorted by the majority leader, Mr. LOTT, the Democratic leader, Mr. DASCHLE, the former President pro tempore, Mr.

BYRD, and the Senator from South Carolina, Mr. HOLLINGS, will present himself at the desk to take the oath of office.

The President pro tempore advanced to the desk of the Vice President; the oath was administered to him by the Vice President; and he subscribed to the oath in the official oath book.

[Applause, Senators rising.]

[Mr. THURMOND assumed the chair.]

Mr. DASCHLE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The distinguished Democratic leader.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, on behalf of all the Members of the Democratic caucus, let me congratulate the President pro tempore on his ascension to this position once again. He has served ably in the last Congress and he has gained the respect of many new Members who did not have the opportunity to work with him in the past. I know that will be the case once more in the 105th Congress.

So we join with our Republican colleagues in congratulating and wishing you well on your election and expressing the hope that we can continue to work so ably together, as you have so clearly demonstrated the ability to do in the last Congress.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Thank you, very much.

Mr. LOTT addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able majority leader.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I would like to congratulate the distinguished Senator from South Carolina for his reelection. Once again the people of South Carolina have shown their usual good judgment. And I also congratulate you on your being reelected as the President pro tempore. Your leadership and your determination to pass good legislation for the best interests of our country and the honorable way in which you serve as the Senator for your great State and as leader in the Senate is one for which we are all very proud and one that as such sets an example for all of us to emulate. We congratulate you and wish you the very best in the 105th Congress. We know you will do your traditional good work.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Thank you for your kind words.

[Applause, Senators rising.]

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I would be delighted to yield to the distinguished Senator from West Virginia.

SENATE PRECEDENTS

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I thank the distinguished majority leader.

For the record, and without being critical of anyone, I am sure that we have followed late precedent in notifying the House and notifying the President after the President pro tempore is elected.

When the Senate first met on April 6th, 1789, after having been delayed 34